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## THE CONVENTION AND THE NOMINEE.

The St. Louis convention will go down into history as one of the greatest ever held. Perhaps never before were so many really eminent political leaders gathered together, and perhaps never before were so many intellectual giants found fighting each other on the floor of a political convention. At the Coliseum were William Jennings Bryan, David B. Hill, Senator Daniel, Senator Bailey, Bourke Cockran, John Sharp Williams, Champ Clark and other men of note in great number. Among them were some of America's most brilliant orators—men well trained in the art of politics, and at St. Louis for the purpose of bringing into action all of the power at their command.

It was really a magnificent contest, well worth a 2,000-mile trip to witness. The Chicago convention, while containing nearly as many of the leaders of the other of the great parties, was more in the nature of a ratification meeting than a political convention. Delegates went to Chicago because they wanted to be present at the nomination of the popular idol—President Roosevelt—and not to take part in any bitter struggle for supremacy. The one convention was utterly devoid of contest—the other bubbling over with it.

Judge Parker, the democratic nominee, will doubtless be defeated. This is not to say he is not worthy the exalted position to which his party would elevate him, but rather that the people of the nation are satisfied with their president, and probably will elect him. To beat Mr. Roosevelt would be a difficult task, and democrats themselves, while aware that the party is now in better shape than for eight years, will acquiesce in this declaration. The popularity of the president is genuine, and his election seems almost a foregone conclusion.

Yet the nomination of Judge Parker is gratifying to everyone interested in the welfare of the country. He is what is known as a "safe" man—a man who is not at all inclined toward the radical. The convention itself, indeed, was inclined to be conservative, else Judge Parker, known to be a "safe" man, could never have been named. While the election of Mr. Roosevelt is about as certain as anything of the kind could well be, the nomination of Judge Parker will not disturb business conditions or cause any undue worry among the men to whom the republic looks for her material progress.

The interesting feature of the convention was the return of the party to the old-time policies. The silver issue is admitted to have perished. The St. Louis platform lacks several of the prominent planks of the Kansas City platform—planks for which the radicals stoutly contended. The democracy has probably at last realized the utter folly of clinging to issues which were obnoxious to the voters. To bring about this condition of political affairs, the very flower of the party was called out. It was a convention such as was never before held by the democrats, and one which is not apt soon to be duplicated.

## EIGHT YEARS OF DROUGHT.

The disastrous result of eight years of drought in a region that has only a limited water supply is the most impressive lesson contained in Professional Paper No. 23, recently published by the United States geological survey. "Forest Conditions in the Black Mesa Forest Reserve, Arizona," is the title of the paper, which was prepared by Mr. F. G. Plummer from notes furnished by Messrs. Theodore F. Rixon and Arthur Dodwell.

The reserve comprises an area of 2,786 square miles and includes parts of Yavapai, Coconino, Gila, Navajo, Apache, and Graham counties, Arizona. It is an irregular strip of land running from central Arizona in a general southeasterly direction to the New Mexico boundary. It follows and lies principally on the north slope of the Colorado Gila divide. The character of this divide, known as Black Mesa, is that of a southward-facing escarpment of nearly perpendicular rock, 1,500 to 2,000 feet high, which is inaccessible, except in a few places, to the most daring climber. It is the south edge of the great

Colorado plateau. The topography of the reserve is in general rough and broken, though the southeastern portion is more rolling, with several high plateaus.

Water is very scarce. Eight years ago the reserve was comparatively well watered but successive seasons of drought have rendered it exceedingly dry, and unless a change for the better occurs cattlemen and sheepmen will desert the country. Numerous small areas were once profitably farmed, but in recent years the lack of rainfall has caused a marked decline in agriculture. Grazing, the main industry of this and adjacent regions, has also suffered greatly from continued droughts. The only remaining areas which are used solely for cattle range are on Blue and Salt river and Eagle creek. The best growths of wild forage grasses are nearly always found at some distance from water, and are consequently not available for stock which are unable to make the trip from water to pasture.

The Verde slope, in the Beaver Creek watershed, is an example of repeated overstocking. This district was formerly a source of great wealth to settlers in that vicinity, but the excessive number of cattle and horses grazed in it has finally resulted in the complete annihilation of the pasture. Unless stringent rules are adopted to regulate the number of stock and the areas on which they shall be grazed on each permit, this condition will sooner or later prevail throughout the reserve.

Yellow pine is the principal timber tree of the reserve and the only lumber at present used for manufacturing purposes. The drought of the last eight years has affected even trees like the yellow pine, aligator, juniper, and Arizona cypress, which, as a rule, stand dry weather very well. Hundreds of thousands of feet of timber will be lost unless immediately logged.

## CREDIT FOR THE GOLD STANDARD.

Minority Leader John Sharp Williams of Mississippi made some good points for the republicans in his speech as temporary chairman of the democratic convention at St. Louis, says the Tacoma Ledger. He criticized the statement in the republican platform that the party of Roosevelt had established the gold standard. He went back to the early days of Cleveland's second administration and asserted that the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman law of 1890 was the step by which the establishment of the gold standard was effected. "I was not one of those who thought the legislation wise," frankly admitted the democratic leader in the house, but the gold standard was adopted "by the dogged persistency and indomitable will of Grover Cleveland, aided by republican legislators."

It is rather amusing that Mr. Williams should at this day make this claim as if it inured to the credit of the democratic party. It is true that at the time the democrats were in control of the presidency and both houses of congress. Mr. Bland was chairman of the coinage committee of the house. Mr. Bryan was a member from Nebraska. Nothing in earth but the vigilance of the republicans and a handful of gold democrats, marshalled by Congressman Charles Tracey, the second democratic member of the coinage committee, who was roundly abused by his democratic associate and taunted as a "cuckoo" for siding with President Cleveland and the republican majority on the currency question, prevented the passage by the democratic congress at that time of a free coinage law. In 1896 the democratic party formulated its demand for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and in 1900 reiterated the demand.

The gold standard was never secure until 1897, when the republican party returned to full control of the government. Chairman Williams' claim that the democratic party is entitled to credit for what was done in 1893 is tantamount to an admission that his party was wrong in 1896 and 1900, and was only saved from a fall under in 1893 by Grover Cleveland and the republican minority. But for them the democratic party in 1893 or in 1897, had it been allowed to carry out its avowed purpose, would have enacted a free silver coinage law, driven gold out of circulation, and made our currency standard a 53-cent dollar. Mr. Williams' tribute to the gold standard and Grover Cleveland is a compliment to the republican party.

An Indiana minister opened a dance with prayer. Now if he will open a prayer meeting with a dance, there will be an end to this talk about men not attending church.

Physicians who are studying the new disease caused by strenuousness should get in touch with the committee on credentials at the St. Louis convention.

It is charitable to suggest that consideration for his soldiers is the reason Kuropatkin is going north before the real hot weather strikes Manchuria.

Senator Burton is now convinced that he would not have been snubbed at the Chicago convention if he had remained in Kansas.

## FRUITS FOR SIGHTSEERS

Oregon Products Are Supplied to Exposition Visitors, Who Are Struck on Prunes.

## A RARE ADVERTISING DODGE

Cherries Are Also Given Away and When the Apples Ripen They, Too, Will Be Distributed.

World's Fair Grounds, St. Louis, July 5.—Special efforts will be made by the Oregon state commission during the summer and fall to keep the Oregon horticultural and agricultural exhibits at the Louisiana Purchase exposition well supplied with fresh fruits.

Already 100 boxes of Royal Anne cherries have been received here from Portland. These cherries were not for exhibition, but for distribution, and they were handed around to the crowds on dedication day. They proved to be a rare treat for the visitors and won much praise for Oregon.

Oregon prunes are distributed every day in the Agricultural building. They are cooked without sugar and are served cold. It takes about 20 gallons a day to supply the demand.

Just as fast as good apples ripen in Oregon they will be forwarded to St. Louis and placed on display and distribution. Efforts will be made to ship fruit in carload lots so that the state will be properly represented. In addition to apples, there will be fresh plums, prunes, pears, peaches and later on grapes and, in fact, every fruit that can be shipped successfully from Oregon to St. Louis.

The horticultural building, while not as large as the palace of agriculture, which is the biggest structure on the grounds, is nevertheless a good-sized affair and is well filled with fruit from all sections of the world. There is an open space in the center, from which the exhibits run gradually back to the wall. The center exhibits are all on tables, while farther back they rise, the highest being the furthest away from the center. Thus a visitor can stand in the middle ring and look up all around him at the magnificent display piled up on every side. This system has been adopted so that exhibits near the center will not obstruct the view of those who are not fortunate in having spaces near the middle.

Oregon is one of the states that has an inside position, directly on the inner circle of exhibits. Thus the state has an advantageous place, and should do all to keep up the standard of her location.

The superintendent of the display is Hon. Charles V. Galloway of McMinnville, who thoroughly understands the fruit industry of the state. Mr. Galloway has taken great pains to have the display in good condition, so that the merits of Oregon fruit will be impressed fully on the exposition visitors.

## Given Another Chance.

The Newly Released Soul wended its way to the Great White Gate and coughed slightly to attract Peter's attention.

"I'm so glad to get here," it said. "Yes," St. Peter looked as if he were waiting for the next sentence. "You will let me right in, of course?" "Er—let me see—your name?" "On earth I was the Rev. Philletus K. Boggs."

"Yes, I see—a clergyman?" "Yes; I think I should prefer a seat pretty well for—"

"You were a good man, of course?" "Certainly. I—"

"What did you preach about?" "About the divine past and the static future."

"Never about the sinful present?" "Well—yes—of course, but—"

"Ever mix in politics any? Tell your flock where the evident right and the palpable wrong lay in them?"

"Well, you see, my parishioners were divided in their party affiliations."

"But there must have been cases where you clearly saw the right and the wrong?"

"Yes, but some of my leading parishioners said that a clergyman had no business to mix—"

"My friend," Peter interrupted, "your case puzzles me. You are not good enough for this place, for we are fighting sin up here regardless of what leading parishioners say or think; and you are too good for the other place. On the whole, I guess that I will—yes, I will—I will give you a chance to go back and try again."

So the sad soul wearily wended its way earthward again. And the doctors said it was a case of suspended animation.—S. F. Bulletin.

## England's Plum Puddings.

What is an English Christmas without plum pudding? Thirteen miles of Christmas puddings, punctuated with mile stones of mince pies piled up 300 feet high, form a vision calculated to fill the heart of any boy, English or otherwise, with gladness. These 13 miles of Christmas compound represent 80,000 separate and distinct puddings, which is the annual output of a single London firm which makes a special business of Christmas catering, not only for England, but for all the ends of the earth. The manager of this great business says that he is sending a larger number of genuine plum puddings to the United States than before. These export puddings cost from 60 cents to \$1.50, and they are made according to a 50-year-old recipe, the secret of which has made the fortune of this particular firm.

The Washington Post: "The Pike



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at the World's Fair has been vindicated. A party of Boston girls report there is nothing there they would be unwilling to let their mothers see."

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